

Cass County of the Week

Only 80, Myrtle Wood Has Worlds To See

By Ruth Miller
Nehawka, Special Correspondent

There is no sign of the small two-room dugout now. Yet it stood 44 miles west of Wabash and in it Myrtle Wood was born. She was the youngest child of M. V. and Marsha Wood and she lived in the dugout for 3 years before her father built the house which now stands on the

farm. Miss Wood still has the receipts her father got when he paid for that farm in 1866.

M. V. Wood was a Civil War veteran. He was a cavalryman and served under General McClellan in the Army of the Potomac. In 1866 he married Marsha McBride in Illinois and they came to Cass County that year believing that something better lay here in the Midwest.

Ten years later, in 1876, a cloud appeared on the horizon of the shimmering day. In a matter of minutes the ground was a mass of chomping, crawling plague—grasshoppers! It didn't take that creeping horde long to devour every green thing in sight.

Miss Wood's mother moaned that if there'd been one blade of grass she'd have eaten it.

There was no food for the family that winter so they loaded into the lumber wagon and returned to Illinois.

Their journey must have been a weary one for it took them within 60 miles of Chicago but with indomitable spirit and unquenched hope they were back in the spring.

Going to town from Wabash was no short hop in the 1800's. Families could only go about every six months since it took three days to get to Lincoln. The spot where Highway 34 now crosses Stevens Creek near Walton was one of the camping spots for city-bound families.

Besides bringing groceries so far it was hard to keep things for so long. Glass jars for canning came in the year 1858 but even then canning was seldom used. Fruit had to be dried. There were several good orchards during Myrtle Wood's girlhood and she can remember wagonloads of apples being scooped into the cellar. Winter meals often consisted of corn meal mush and milk.

But not all was hardship. Mr. Wood led a Singing School. All the community gathered and with a tuning fork as their only instrument they poured from the staunch joy in their hearts to the startled whippoorwills on the prairie.

In 1882 the GAR was organized in Elmwood. There were 19 soldiers among who were Mr. Wood and David McCaig, first postmaster at Elmwood.

Miss Wood waited on tables to work her way through Kansas State Normal School. She taught school for nine years including schools in Oklahoma and Kansas as well as at Wabash and the "Cottonwood School" at Plattsmouth.

But in 1918 she switched to a more intriguing role—that of rural mail carrier. She began with a team and buggy. Like the "horse and buggy doctors" she was expected to get through any weather. She would start at 8 o'clock in the morning and sometimes continue till after dark.

She wore out three Model T's, several Model A's, and four other cars during the course of 30 years of mail carrying.

She patched her own tires when Model T's came in and nearly froze in the heaterless cars.

She says "the women in town always said they'd find me frozen to death but all the old mail carriers are gone and I'm still here."

Yes, Myrtle Wood is still here and having fun in spite of 80 years of hard work.

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Donors Needed At Bloodmobile Here July 14

"Bring a new donor with you, when you visit the Bloodmobile Unit at the Methodist Church July 14, Friday, from 12 noon to 6 p.m.," those in charge of the visit urged today.

Members of the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars are the volunteer group which will be calling you. Members ask your assistance by answering the request. The caller's time will be limited by the many calls she will make and your help in this will be appreciated.

If you have not been called, please phone Mrs. Marge Willis, 6182, or Mrs. Lillian Dasher, 8236.

Any healthy person between the ages of 21 and 59 can give blood and those from 18 to 21 can give with the written consent of their parents.

The doctors and nurses are as anxious to protect you, the donor, as they are to protect the one who receives the blood. Your medical history will be taken and checked each time you give blood.

You may eat normally up to four hours before donating; if you are hungry during the four hours before you donate, eat some non-fatty foods.

Your blood will be typed in the laboratory at the blood center and you will receive a card showing your blood type. Carry this card with you at all times.

Your pint of blood provides whole blood, irradiated plasma, fresh frozen plasma, serum albumin, gamma globulin, fibrinogen, packed red cells and other useful blood derivatives.

"Your blood is that gift of life so precious to save, so little to give. Visit your Bloodmobile Unit at the Methodist Church July 14. Volunteer doctors, nurses, canteen workers, hostesses and typists will be there to assist you," those in charge said.

Class of '31 To Have Reunion Here Saturday

The class of 1931 of Plattsmouth High School will hold its Class Reunion Saturday, July 15, at the Lions Club.

Festivities will start at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. R. Foster Patterson, former teacher and principal here, will be the main speaker for the evening.

An Open House will be held at 9:30 p.m. for anyone wanting to greet the teachers and class members.

Anyone not attending who desires a program of the evening's festivities can send \$1 to Richard Spangler, Program Chairman, RFD No. 1, Plattsmouth, Nebr. with their name and address.

Class of '33 Has Reunion; 25 Attend

Plattsmouth High's graduating class of 1933 gathered here at the Lions Community Building Saturday night for its 28th anniversary reunion.

Twenty-five of the class of 48 attended. Two class members are deceased.

Coming farthest to be at the reunion were Robert Rummel of Burbank, Calif., and Anna May Sandin, Breitenbach of Levittown, N.Y.

Special guests were Lowell Devoe of Lincoln, superintendent here 12 years, and Fred Rother, coach for 13 years at the school, including the time the class of 1933 was in school.

There was a social hour, followed by dinner and an informal talk on reminiscences by Devoe. This was pronounced great entertainment by those attending.

Visiting among class members continued much of the weekend.

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School Budget Here Is \$429,395

Tax Increase of \$22,550, About 5 Mills, Is Seen

A 1961-62 Plattsmouth schools budget of \$429,395 has been approved by the District One Board of Education. It is \$25,550 over last year's budget.

The tax request is, \$290,395 compared with \$267,875 last school year, an increase of \$22,520.

The tax fund increase is expected to be about 5 mills, based on an estimated evaluation for the district of \$5,230,000. Last year's evaluation was \$5,134,644.

Other estimated receipts for the ensuing year (1960-61 receipts in parentheses):

- State apportionment, \$15,000 (\$15,039)
- Vocational education, \$2,500 (\$4,303)
- Licenses and fines, \$15,000 (\$15,116)
- School lunch and milk program, \$6,000 (\$3,420)
- Non resident tuition, \$62,000 (\$69,181)
- U. S. Treasury, Public Law 874, 41,000 (\$0,432)
- NDEA Title 3, none (\$1,358)

By principal funds, the budget comparison includes (1960-61 figures in parentheses):

- Administration, \$14,975 (\$13,052)
- Instruction, \$329,330 (\$299,150)
- Other school expense, health service, athletics, miscellaneous, \$2,830 (\$2,926)

Operation of plant, \$30,914 (\$30,696)

Maintenance of plant, \$15,965 (\$16,312)

Fixed costs, \$13,500 (\$14,095)

Capital outlay, \$16,372 (\$17,886)

Adult education, \$500 (\$250)

Transfers to other funds, \$5,000 (\$4,532)

In his budgetary report to the Board of Education, Supt. O. F. Mussman gave this breakdown of percentages of receipts for the past school year:

- 13.8 per cent from federal funds.
- 3.7 per cent from state funds.
- 62 per cent from local property taxes.
- 16.8 per cent from free high school tuition.
- 3.7 per cent from licenses, fines, etc.

The superintendent said in his report:

Considering the various sources of income, only item No. 3 may be expected to increase. Our Federal income will decrease for the following reasons:

- The Caphart housing project has reduced the number of (Continued on Page 8)



LEGION OFFICERS—Commander Melvin Moritz, new commander of Hugh J. Kearns American Legion Post here, seated center, is shown with other officers elected and installed Thursday night. Seated at left is first vice commander James Drennen. Seated at right adjutant Don Warga. Standing are members of the executive committee, from left: Albert Olson, Eugene Krings, Arthur Warga, Alva Linder, Joe Zastera, Kenneth Young, Orville Julian and E. O. Vroman. Merlin Jochimsen, another committee member, was not present for the photo.

Pet Parade Here Friday At Carnival

The Plattsmouth Jaycees today announced that a Pet Parade will be held Friday in conjunction with their annual Carnival this weekend.

The parade will be at 7 p.m. and will also feature the contestants in the Mrs. Jaycees annual Sweet 16 Queen contest.

The Queen selection will be announced and the crowning held just after the parade.

Bill Hawkins and Cecil McKnight are chairmen in charge of the parade.

Entries will line up on 6th Street north of Avenue A. Hawkins asked that youngsters be there with their pets between 6:30 and 6:45 to allow time for numbering contestants.

Hawkins urged youngsters to take part. Each entrant will receive a treat from the Jaycees and these judged best will receive prizes.

The parade will be led by the Plattsmouth High School Band. The Carnival runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Jaycees will operate a food stand north of the Bank, near the midway which will be set up on 5th Street.

Moritz Installed Legion Commander

Melvin Moritz Thursday night was installed commander of Hugh J. Kearns American Legion Post here.

Installation followed election held the same night.

Also elected and installed were:

- James Drennen, first vice commander.
- Merle D. Meisinger, second vice commander.
- E. O. Vroman, Arthur J. Warga, Albert Olson, Alva Linder, Orville Julian, Joseph Zastera, Eugene Krings, Kenneth Young and Merlin Jochimsen, members of the executive committee.

Installation was conducted by past commander James Begley. He told of the accomplishments of immediate past commander Kenneth Young.

Also Thursday, the post named Melvin Moritz, Leonard Brothers, James Drennen, R. T. Cuthrell and Alva Linder delegates to the Nebraska Department Convention at Grand Island Aug. 4-6. Alternates are Merle D. Meisinger, Kenneth Young, Dean Patton, James Begley and Eugene Krings.

A recommended change in the Department Constitution and By-Laws was read, pertaining to

Miss Pfeifer Leads Voting

In the Sweet Sixteen Contest, Connie Pfeifer is leading in votes which were tabulated up to Friday by the Mrs. Jaycees, sponsors of the contest.

Other contestants in order of leading total votes as of Friday are Barbara Newsom, Carol Jacobs, Janet Peteret, Judy Curtis and Valerie Gorton.

Carol Dasher became a candidate late last week.

The Sweet Sixteen Queen will be crowned Friday night following the Carnival Parade.

Prizes for the winner are on display in the Gas Company window.

Dick O'Donnell On Chamber Board

At the recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the board approved the appointment of Dick O'Donnell to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Wayne Schneider.

O'Donnell is employed at Ruback's Super Market. His term on the Board of Directors will expire Jan. 1, 1963.

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Grover Parriott Dies at 78; Funeral Today

Grover Cleveland Parriott, 78, died Friday at St. Catherine's Hospital in Omaha. He had been ill two weeks.

Funeral services were today at Sattler Funeral Home with the Rev. Joseph Barr officiating. Burial was in Mount Vernon Cemetery at Peru.

Mr. Parriott was born Jan. 29, 1883, at Peru, son of William and Margaret Moore Parriott.

He was married to Anna Petersen in 1904 at Peru. They had four children, all of whom survive: Everett Parriott of Plattsmouth, Mrs. Marie Colerick of Falls City, Mrs. Alberta Schlagle of Shubert, and Mrs. Louise Tritsch of Murray. Mrs. Parriott died in 1918. He was married in 1922 at Tekamah to Lillian Van Epps. They had two children, Mrs. Donna Bashus of Plattsmouth, and Grover Lee Parriott of Plattsmouth who was killed in an automobile accident near here Feb. 4. Mrs. Parriott survives.

Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

At funeral services, Mrs. Hugh Stander Jr. was soloist, Mrs. George Jacobs, organist. Pallbearers were Larry Ludwig, Steven Colerick, Richard Tritsch, Donald Parriott and William Becker.



1933 PHS GRADS—Members of the 1933 graduating class of Plattsmouth High School who gathered here for a reunion Saturday night, and special guests, included, from left: front—Gertrude Valley Gorton, Ha Taylor Todd, Mary Mrasek Eckenberger, Elinore Smetana Christensen, Amy Elliott Behrens, Mather Schackness, Rose Woster Stoehr; second row—Fred Rother, basketball-football coach here 13 years; Laverna Rhoden Gauer, Norma Baumgart Wagner, Helen Amick Park, Florence Schutz Mrasek, Virginia Saneck Bulin, Leona Meisinger Bieri, Helen Woolcott Smith, Anna May Sandin Breitenbach, Lowell Devoe, former superintendent here; back—Bob Hinz, Bob Hall, Richard Black, Dr. George Adam, Sam Ann, Max Schackness, Greth Garnett, Bob Rummel, Dr. Richard Brendel and Donald Bushnell.



TRAVEL BECKONS—Miss Myrtle Wood is shown in Egypt during a round-the-world tour in 1955. She's still planning more travel, would like to visit Russia and Australia.